

# MEMO

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DATE: September 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

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Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- The GNA conducted successful drone strikes near Tripoli, neutralizing two of Haftar's key commanders on the ground. These strikes have pushed Haftar's forces back, after the GNA successfully took Gharyan.
- Russian Mercenary group, the Wagner Group, has been operating on the ground in Libya. Russia's military role in Libya is much more extensive than it has been reported, as there has been a Russian military officer, Lt. General Andrei Vladimirovich Kholzakov, who is a deputy commander of Russia's Airborne Assault Forces, deployed on the ground in Libya.
- Haftar's strikes in Sirte, a town the GNA took back in 2016 from ISIS thanks to US military support, has hindered efforts in fighting terrorism in the city. This strike displays that Haftar has zero interest in fighting terrorism or uniting Libya.

Reuters (9/13): [Two commanders allied to Libya's Haftar killed in strike near Tripoli](#)

- Successful GNA strikes near Tripoli have resulted in the death of two of Haftar's key commanders on the ground.
- This drone strike comes on the heels of the GNA successfully pushing Haftar back out of Gharyan and into Tarhouna, which remains one of the last outposts for Haftar's forces.

Daily Beast (9/13): [Russia's Wagner Mercenaries Have Moved Into Libya. Good Luck With That.](#)

- After 5 months of fighting, General Haftar appears no closer to capturing Tripoli than he was previously.
- Russian Mercenary group, the Wagner Group, has been reported to operating in Libya on behalf of General Haftar.
- Russia's military role in Libya is much more extensive than it has been reported, as there has been a Russian military officer, Lt. General Andrei Vladimirovich Kholzakov, who is a deputy commander of Russia's Airborne Assault Forces, deployed on the ground in Libya.

The North Africa Post (9/17): [Libya: Haftar hit GNA-aligned forces fighting ISIS in Sirte](#)

- General Haftar's forces struck GNA positions in Sirte that are used to fight ISIS.
- The Sirte Protection Forces, aligned with the GNA, noted that this strike has hindered the efforts in fighting ISIS as well as Gaddafi loyalists willing to start conflict in the city.
- The GNA forces regained Sirte in 2016 in large part due to the US Air Forces assistance in taking back the ISIS stronghold.

Reuters (9/18): [Italy's Conte says Libya will be at centre of talks with Macron](#)

- Italian PM Conte will focus on the stabilization of Libya in his conversation with French President Macron.

- Conte noted that the crisis remains a source of concern and that a solution is crucial for all national interests.

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